

31. The filtering membrane of Claim 29, wherein said treating material is an electrically charged material.

REMARKS

The original application was filed with Claims 1-25, of which Claims 20-25 were withdrawn from consideration by request of election. Claims 1-19 were examined. As a result of examination, Claims 1-4 and 12-14 were rejected on the basis of 35 U.S.C 103 in view of disclosure in one of the references. Claims 5-11 and 15-19 were objected as being dependent on a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant accepts the requests of the examination and submits herein a new set of Claims 20-31 that are drafted in compliance with the request of the examination, i.e., the new claims are rejected claims rewritten in independent form that includes all of the limitations of the rejected base claim with corresponding intervening claims. More specifically,

Claim 20 is a new independent claim that includes limitations of rejected Claims 1, 2, and 5;

Claim 21 is former Claim 6, which is now dependent on Claim 20;

Claim 22 is former Claim 7, which is now dependent on Claim 21;

Claim 23 is former Claim 8, which is now dependent on Claim 22;

Claim 24 is former Claim 9, which is now dependent on Claim 22;

Claim 25 is former Claim 10, which is now dependent on Claim 20;

Claim 26 is former Claim 11, which is now dependent on Claim 25;

Claim 27 is a new independent claim and includes limitations of former Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, and 15.

Claim 28 is former Claim 16, which is now dependent on Claim 27;

Claim 29 is former Claim 17, which is now dependent on Claim 28;

Claim 30 is former Claim 18, which is now dependent on Claim 29;

Claim 31 is former Claim 19, which is now dependent on Claim 29.

Applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form and in condition for allowance, which action he respectfully solicits.

Very Respectfully,

Vladimir Prutkin
477-34th Avenue #12
San Francisco, CA 94124
Tel. 1-415-751-8924

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Response to the PTO Office Action of 10/28/03 relating to US Patent Application No. 10/058,157 of Vladimir Prutkin and return post card) will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on the date below:

Date: November 11, 2003

Alexander Shkolnik

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander Shkolnik".